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Minutes

Takoma Park Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee 22 July 2004

Members present	Members absent
Andy Kelemen, chair	Caroline Beckham
Gayle Fisher-Stewart, vice chair	
Peter Kovar	
Wolfgang Mergner	Guests
Michael Israel	
Cindy Creamer, Chief of Police	

Most of the discussion went toward deciding to hold a “family picnic” with the purpose of advertising the need for Neighborhood Safety Contacts (NSC) and membership in PSCAC. The date decided on was 25 September and if possible on VFW POST 350 grounds. Food to be provided by the City.

The importance of having a dependable and extensive cadre of NSC is evident to all on the committee. It was suggested that:

- PSCAC hold several (3?) meetings a year for NSC to network and discuss issues and where they can meet County, State and Federal representatives;
- PSCAC arrange CERT training for the NSC;
- A pocket card be distributed to the NSC with critical information;

The need to find good information, hopefully statistically valid, regarding the effectiveness of neighborhood patrols was also remarked on. Both Wolfgang and Gayle agreed to look around to find such studies or reports.

It was again pointed out that the lack of crime plotting software in TPPD is a handicap in preventive patrolling. The pros and cons of random and targeted patrols were also discussed in this context.